

REMARKS

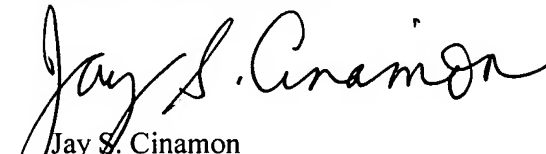
This application contains claims 1, 5-8 and 10-17. Claims 10-17 are allowed. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 6-8 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. These claims have therefore been amended to stand as independent claims, incorporating the limitations of claim 5 (and claim 7, in the case of claim 8), from which they formerly depended. Claims 6 and 8 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Brady (U.S. Patent 5,613,139). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has canceled independent claims 1 and 5 in order to expedite issuance of a patent on the subject matter that the Examiner found to be allowable. Dependent claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 6.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented above to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to this effect is requested. Please charge any fees which may be due and which are not submitted herein to Deposit Acct. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,


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